#### LITERATURE.

REVIEW OF NEW BOOKS.

-Mrs. Sarah J. Hale's "Woman's Record" is a work that has enjoyed a well-deserved popularity ever since its first publication twenty years ago. As a work of reference it occupies a place that no other biographical dictionary can fill, and it is valuable for the general accuracy of its statements as well as interesting from the fact that it presents an admirable review of the deeds of noble women from the creation to the present time. Mrs. Hale devoutly believes in the mental as well as the physical superiority of her own sex, or at least she goes into a long and ingenious argument in her preface to prove that such is the case, and one of the chief faults of her book is that her prejudices in this direction do not always allow her to appear as an impartial historian.

Except in very bad cases, where the facts are all so decidedly against her that she cannot do much with them, Mrs. Hale represents her heroines as angels of light, whom nobody but coarse, brutal, and wicked men could possibly suspect of wickedness. Most readers, however, can afford to smile at this peculiarity and appreciate the book for its real and substantial worth. The copious extracts which Mrs. Hale gives of the writings of female authors add greatly to the value of the book, while her good taste in making selections much increases its interest. A third edition of the "Women's Record," with numerous additions, has just been published by Harper & Brothers, and has been sent us by D. Ashmead. The peculiar plan of the book, as it was originally published, by division into eras, and the mention of a number of the heroines as "living women," thus rendering numerous supplements and explanatory fly leaves necessary, gives it in its present shape a rather mixed appearance. The inconveniences of this almost necessary defect, however, is obviated by a very full index, and the "Women's Record" stands as an almost unique performance, and it fully deserves a place in every library. -J. B. Lippincott & Co. send us the fel-

lowing of their recent publications:-"Dorothy Fox" and "Fernyhurst Court" have appeared serially during the past year in Good Words, where they have interested a large number of readers. They are quiet and pleasant pictures of some of the most attractive phases of English life, and while they lack the sensational element that many persons have a special foneness for, they present more legitimate attractions to persons of pure and refined taste than do many the most popular works of fiction of the day. Both stories are beautifully illustrated by designs from the pencils of artists of ability. "Ruined Statues and other Poems," by

Louise Billings Spalding, is marked by deep religious feeling, refined poetical taste, and graceful versification. The writer's muse does not soar to very lofty heights, and candor compels us to say that she appears in the volume before us as possessing poetical appreciation rather than poetical inspiration. Some of the verses, however, appear to have the genuine poetical stamp upon them, and many readers will find pleasure in their perusal.

J. B. Lippincott & Co. also send us the following new books from the press of Fields, Osgood & Co .:-

"The English Governess at the Siamese Court," by Anna Harriette Leonowens, gives the substance of the very interesting papers published in the Atlantic Monthly during the past year under the same title, with some additional matter. Mrs. Leonowens for several years occupied the position of governess of the children of the Supreme King of ; Siam, and living as she did in the most private apartments of the royal palace, she had opportunities for studying closely some of the most remarkable phases of Siamese life and character, such as probably no foreigner before has ever enjoyed. Mrs. Leonowens literary style is not remarkably good, and she has not always discriminated closely between the important and the unimportant in her narrative, and it therefore is at times exceedingly dull. Notwithstanding this, the book is one of great interest, and is a valuable contribution to the department of literature that treats of life in the Orient. There are numerous illustrations from photographs presented to the author by the King of Siam, and the work is elegantly printed and bound, so that it makes a beautiful presentation volume for the holiday.

"Miriam and Other Poems" the title of Mr. Whittier's new volume, the only fault of which is that there is too little of it. Mr. Whittier holds a place of his own among the poets of America. Strong and sweet, his verse is always pervaded by a sentiment of the broadest Christian charity, by an appreciation of the weakness of humanity, and by a keen sense of enjoyment of the phases of external nature. Besides the title poem the volume before us contains "Nauhaught, the Deacon," "Norembega," "The Hive at Gettysburg," "Howard at Atlanta," and others that have appeared from time to time in the magazines, with some that have net before been published. This little volume of verses will make a very pretty gift for the holidays.

Another attractive holiday book is Charles Dickens' graceful little story of "A Child's. Dream of a Star," which Messrs. Fields, Osgood & Co. have issued in all the glories of thick creamy paper, red borders to the pages, elegant printing, tasteful binding, and numerous illustrations, by Hammatt Billings. These last are common place in the extreme, and are wholly unworthy of their elegant surroundings. The best of them are exceedingly bad imitations of some of Dore's illustrations to Dante's "Paradiso," and they do the artist, who sometimes makes really pretty drawings, no credit.

-Jean Ingelow's new volume of verses, "Monitions of the Unseen and Poems of Love and Childhood," published by Hoberts Broth rs, has been sent us by J. B. Lippin-

cott & Co. It is a great pity that Miss Ingelow does not always thoroughly understand the characteristics of her own genius. The "Monitions of the Unseen," the most elaborate poem in this volume, like the "Story of Doom," which was the principal feature of her last book, is a subject totally beyond her range. There is much beautiful poetry in it that we cannot but admire, while regretting that the writer should have entangled herself with a subject to which she cannot do justice, and the clumsy "machinery" of the poem is an even greater source of annoyance than the obvious failure to reach a certain ideal The other poems in the volume will, we are sure, be cordially appreciated by Miss Ingelow's admirers. They show a maturity and depth not to be found in her enlier writings, and the pair of poems under the head of "The Two Margarets," and entitled "Margaret by the Mere Side" and "Margaret in the Xebec," are at once original in subject and most poetical in treatment. They will rank among the very best of Miss Ingelow's poems and will do far more towards maintaining her reputation than the more preen-tious performance that gives the title to her

-From John Campbell we have received Parts 9 and 10 of Vincent's "History of Delaware." This work increases in interest as it progresses, and it will be a very valuable contribution to our historical literature.

-"The Old Franklin Almanac" for 1871. which we have received from A. Winch, No. 505 Chesnut street, contains, as usual, a great amount of statistical and other information that will make it a valuable work of reference that cannot but prove useful in every family, office, or workshop in the country.

#### UNITED GERMANY.

The Royal Speech at the Opening of the North German Parliament. The speech delivered on November 24, at the opening of the North German Parliament, ran thus:-"Honored gentlemen of the Parliament of the North German Confederation: His Majesty the King of Prussia has been pleased to confer upon me the task of opening the Parlia-ment of the North German Confederation in the name of the Confederate Governments. It would have afforded his Majesty great satisfaction to be present to-day in your midst in order to thank God from this place for the successes with which the arms of the German forces have been blessed, and to express te you the part which the national attitude and unanimity of the Parliament, in affording the necessary means for carrying on the war, have had in these successes. By the victories, unprecedented in the military history of the world, which, by God's will, have been gained through the heroic valor and sagacious leadership of the Germans, the aggression undertaken by France against Germany in July last has been repelled. The French people must have acquired the conviction that its present power, since the destruction of the armies which were sent into the field against us, is not capable of coping with the united military forces of Germany. We should, therefore, be able to regard peace as certain had our unfortunate neighbors a government the members of which regarded their future as inseparable from their country. Such a government would have seized every opportunity to place the nation to the head of which it has raised itself by its own supreme power in a position to elect a National Assembly, and to delibe-rate upon the present and future of the country. But the documents which will be submitted to you, gentlemen, by the President of the Confederation, will afford you proof that those who now hold the reins of power in France prefer to sacrifice the forces of a noble nation in a hopeless struggle. The incalculable exhaustion and devastation which will be to France the consequences of a continuance of the war under the present circumstances must certainly diminish the power of the country to such an extent that its restoration will require a longer period than would be the case in the ordinary course of war. The Confederate Governments, however, are compelled with regret to give expression to their conviction the peace between these two great neighboring peoples, upon the continuance of which calculated more than six months ago, but be all the more in danger by the remembrance which the impression of this war will leave in France the moment when France, by the restoration of her own strength, or by the conclusion of alliances with other powers, shall feel herself strong enough to recommence the struggle. The condi tions upon which the allied Governments would be ready to conclude peace have been publicly discussed. It is necessary that they should be commensurate with the greatness of the sacrifices laid upon the country by the war, which, though undertaken by France without any ground whatsoever, had the assent of the whole French nation. It is above all things necessary that they should establish a defensible frontier for Germany against the continuance by future Governments of France of the policy of conquest which had been pursued for so many hundred years, and that this frontier should be settled in such a way as partly to redress the results of the unfortunate wars which Germany, at a period of internal division, was compelled to wage by the will of At the same time it is necessary that our South German brethren should be freed from the burden of the threatening position which France ewes to former conquest. The Confederate Governments feel that they can rely upon the North German Parliament not to refuse the means which are still required for the attainment of these objects. They are convinced that now, when it is a question of rendering secure the results which have been achieved, they will meet in you the same patriotism and devotion which they found when the task was that of accomplishing the now-achieved successes. It is their most profound wish that it may be essible to refrain from using the whole of these means. In order to afford you a complete survey of the political situation, the Govern-ment will lay before you the communications which have recently reached the Ministry for Foreign Affairs respecting the treaty of Paris of the 30th of March, 1856, in doing which the Confederate Governments desire to express their hope that the blessings of peace will remain assured to Sthose nations which have hitherto enjoyed them. The continuance of the war has not prevented the ac-complishment of a work of peace. The senti-ment of unity which has been vivilled by the common danger and the jointly-won victories, the consciousness of the position which Ger-many, for the first time for centuries, has achieved through her unity, the recognition of the fact that only by the creation of permanent institutions for the future of Germany can a fitting legacy of this time of deeds and sacrifices be assured have more rapidly and universally than a short time back would have been credible, filled the German people and its Princes with the conviction that a stronger link than that afforded by international treaties is needed be tween the North and the South. This unanions opinion of the Governments has led to negotiations, the first fruit of which, grown on the field of battle will be laid before you for your approval in the shape of a constitution for a German Confederacy, which has been agreed upon the North German Confederation and the Grand Duchles of Baden and Hesse-Darmstadt, and which has been unanimously adopted by the Federal Council. The understanding which has been arrived at upon similar bases with Bavaria will also form the subject of your de liberations, and the agreement of views between the allied governments and Wurtemberg re-

specting the object to be almed at permits us to

hope that similar agreement as to the method

of attaining it will not be wanting. Honored gentlemen, with this work you will worthily

close a period of activity such as has rarely been the lot of Legislative Assemblies."

#### A CHURCH BABY SHOW.

Fat, Thin, and Thoughtful Bables-The Prize and Voted for-A Novel Exhibition. ging to church members. A few days ago the soft the Piymouth Church opened a bazaar, at the suggestion of Mrs. George Ordway, but thirty of the ladies of the church despatched heir babies and nurses by special express to the

show. The bables ranged in age from six months to three years, and were generally handsome, and nently set off with various ornaments, which were calculated to enhance their attractive looks. The fat buby was there (says the Times), the thin and thoughtful baby and the hydrocephalic baby. A short time after they had been gathered together, quite a number of the six months fellows called justily for rations, and a base of supplies had to be established with several bottles and india-rubber takes. Once having been restored by this means tubes. Quiet having been restored by this means, the little fellows were ranged in a semi-circular row before the footlights, and the handsome ladies and the men with side whiskers, of whom a large sprinkling were present, were exhorted to deposit their votes for the baby they loved best. Each vote was accompanied with ten cents. Of the 30 babies present 18 only received votes. The remainder, like old politicians, found they were not so popular as some of their more favored associates. Of the 13 voted for, the three mest popular babies were of the masculine gender, and were named Harry Bonney Stout, Horatto Merritt, and Harry Allen. Stout was a homocopathic baby, and carried all the disciples of Hahyemann, besides the votes of several others, who gave their franchises for the

all the disciples of Hangemann, besides the votes of several others who gave their franchises for the baby because it was Stout's and Mrs. Stout's. This was the successful infant, receiving 187 votes.

Following close upon his heels was the baby of Mrs. Merritt. It was granted by all that the little fellow possessed what its name called for. Had the homeopathic question been kept out of the canvass, Herritt world have been declared the winner. The Horatio would have been declared the winner. The third infant, Harry Ailen, lacked only two votes of being as popular as his next higher competitor, having 155 votes. The remaining 110 votes were scattered among ten candidates, who had no show in a competition with the three thorough-breds There were several exquisitely beautiful female

bables present, and, as the voters were mostly ladies, the inference may be drawn that they were not of the woman's rights temperament.

The show was a financial success, and will be taken up in the future by the first denomination that has handsome babies to create a real excite-

#### CUNNINGLY CONTRIVED CHESTS.

Slik and Satlu Seizure-Rogues Rebblug the Revenue. For some time past the Custom House authorities have been aware that large quantities of silks and Lyons velvets were being smuggled across the chan-nel from France to Ireland, mainly to Belfast and the Northern ports. The goods were there safely stored until emigrants could be found by whom to send the cloth to New York. The mode of operation was as follows:—A large trunk manufacturer, whose name is said to be Downs, furnished boxes for emigrants at reduced prices. These boxes, or chests, were of the most substantial manufacture, and contained false bottoms. Between the false and real bottoms the silks and velvets were hidden and smuggled into New York. The emigrants were recommended to go to certain boarding-houses on West street, and when they arrived there with their boxes it was a simple mat-ter to remove the smuggled goods and replace the false bottoms. The goods were then removed to two wholesale houses on Broadway, who were thus enabled to sell fine silks and velvets at a low figure, very much under the market prices. So common had this mode of evading the custom authorities be come that it is probable that hardly a vessel left the nerthern ports of Ireland without some of the ingeniously constructed chests aboard. It is esti mated that the loss to the United States Govern-ment by this fraudulent evasion of customs will aggregate nearly \$950,000 in gold. By some means the secret leaked out and came to the ears of the authorities, who immediately instituted a vigorous examination of emigrants' boxes on all vessels arriving at castle Garden. The search has been successful. This morning three of the attaches of the Custom House found a chest containing siks and

HEAL ESTATE AT AUCTION. NOTICE.—BY VIRTUE AND IN EXECUTION of the powers contained in a Mortgage exe-THE CENTRAL PASSENGER RAILWAY COMof the city of Philadelphia, bearing date of eighteenth of April, 1863, and recorded in the office for recording deeds and mortgages for the city and county of Philadelphia, in Mortgage Book A. C. H., No. 56, page 465, etc., the undersigned Trustees named in said Mortgage
WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION, at the MERCHANTS' EXCHANGE, in the city of

velvets, valued at \$6000, at a boarding-house on West street. So neatly had the box been constructed that it passed the officers at Castle Garden without suspicion as to its contents. Many boxes similar to the one seized have been sent to Baltimore by the

smugglers, and the Custom House authorities in that city have been notified of the fact by the New York officials. The silks and velvets seized in West street have been removed to the Seizure Department.—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser, last evening.

Philadelphia, by MESSRS, THOMAS & SONS, AUCTIONEERS, at 12 o'clock M., on TUESDAY, the fourteenth day of February, A. D. 1871, the property described in and conveyed by the said Mortgage, to wit:— No. 1. All those two contiguous lots or pieces of ground, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate on the east side of Broad street, in the city of Philadelphia, one of them beginning at the distance of nineteen feet seven inches and five-eights southward from the southeast cor-ner of the said Broad and Coates streets; thence extending eastward at right angles with said Broad street eighty-eight feet one inch and a half to ground now or late of Samuel Miller; thence southward along said ground, and at right angles with said Coates street, seventy-two feet to the northeast corner of an alley, two feet six inches in width, leading southward into Penn street; thence westward, crossing said alley and along the lot of ground hereinafter described and at right angles with said Broad street, seventy-nine feet to the east side of the said Broad street; and thence northward along the east line of said Broad street seventy-two feet the east line of said Broad atreet seventy-two feet to the place of beginning. Subject to a ground-rent

of \$280, silver money.
No. 2. The other of them situate at the northeast corner of the said Broad street and Penn street, containing in front or breadth on the said Broad street eighteen feet, and in length or depth eastward along the north line of said Penn street seventy-for eet and two inches, and on the line of said lot parallel with said Penn street, seventy-six feet five inches and three-fourths of an inch to said two feet aix inches wide alley. Subject to ground rent of \$72, sil-

ver money. No. 3. All that certain lot or piece of ground beginning at the southeast corner of Coates street and street, thence extending southward along he said Broad street nineteen feet seven inches and ave-eighths of an inch; thence eastward eighty feet one inch and one-half of an inch; thence northward, at right angles with said Coates street, nine ward, at right angles with said coates street, and thence feet to the south side of Coates street, and thence westward along the south side of said Coates street inety feet to the place of beginning. No. 5. The whole road, plank road and railway of

No. 5. The whole road, plank road and fallway of the said The Central Passenger Railway Company of the city of Philadelphia, and all their land (not included in Nos. 1, 2 and 3), roadway, railway, rails, right of way, stations, toll-houses and other super-structures, depots, depot grounds and other real testate, buildings and improvements whatsoever, and all and singular the corporate privileges and tranchizes connected with said company and the corporate franchises connected with said company and cad and railway and relating thereto, and all the toils, income issues and profits to accrue from the same or any part thereof belonging to said company, and generally all the tenements, hereditaments and franchises of the said company. And also all the cars of every kind (not included in No. 4), machinery, cols, implements and materials connected with the proper equipment, operating and conducting of said road, plank road and railway; and all the personal property of every kind and description belonging to

Together with all the streets, ways, alleys, pas-Together with all the streets, ways, alleys, passages, waters, water-courses, easements, fran-chises, rights, libertles, privileges, hereditaments, and appurtenances whatsoever, unto any of the above mentioned premises and estates belonging and appertaining, and the reversions and remainand appertaining, and the reversions and remain-ders, rents, issues, and profits thereof, and all the estate, right, title, interest, property, ciaim, and de-mand of every nature and kind whatsoever of the said company, as well at law as in equity of, in, and

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